

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (new): A videophone interpretation system in which an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages, said videophone interpretation system comprising:

connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for communicating video and audio between the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by said connection means; wherein

said connection means includes:

an interpreter registration table in which at least the language types that can be interpreted by an interpreter and a terminal number of the interpreter are registered;

a function to accept a call from a caller terminal;

a function to acquire a terminal number of a callee, the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted;

a function to extract a terminal number of an interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a function to call the interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter; and

a function to call the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee;

said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video including at least video from said callee terminal to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video including at least video from said caller terminal to said callee terminal;

a first audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said caller terminal;

a second audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said caller terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said callee terminal;

a third audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said caller terminal and audio from said callee terminal and transmit the result to said interpreter terminal;

said first audio transmission function includes a callee audio suppression function to suppress audio from said callee terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected;

said second audio transmission function includes a caller audio suppression function to suppress audio from said caller terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected;

a detection function to detect a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal based on an audio signal input from said interpreter terminal; and

an interpretation audio selective suppression function to suppress audio on the side not selected by the selection signal detected by said detection function out of audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function and an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function.

Claim 22 (new): A videophone interpretation system in which an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages, said system comprising:

connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for communicating video and audio between the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by said connection means; wherein

said connection means includes:

an interpreter registration table in which at least the language types that can be interpreted by an interpreter and the terminal number of the interpreter are registered;

a function to accept a call from a caller terminal;

a function to acquire a terminal number of a callee, the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted;

a function to extract a terminal number of an interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a function to call the interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter; and

a function to call the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee; and

said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video including at least video from said callee terminal to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video including at least video from said caller terminal to said callee terminal;

a first audio transmission function to selectively transmit either audio from said callee terminal or audio from said interpreter terminal to said caller terminal;

a second audio transmission function to selectively transmit either audio from said caller terminal or audio from said interpreter terminal to said callee terminal;

a third audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said caller terminal and audio from said callee terminal and transmit the result to said interpreter terminal;

said first audio transmission function includes a function to turn off audio from said callee terminal and transmit audio from said interpreter terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected;

said second audio transmission function includes a function to turn off audio from said caller terminal and transmit audio from said interpreter terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected;

a detection function to detect a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal based on an audio signal input from said interpreter terminal; and

an interpretation audio selective suppression function to suppress the audio on the side not selected by the selection signal detected by said detection function out of audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function and an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function.

Claim 23 (new): A videophone interpretation system in which an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages, said system comprising:

connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for communicating video and audio between the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by said connection means; wherein

said connection means includes:

an interpreter registration table in which at least the language types that can be interpreted by an interpreter and a terminal number of the interpreter are registered;

a function to accept a call from the caller terminal;

a function to acquire a terminal number of a callee, the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted;

a function to extract a terminal number of the interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a function to call the interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter; and

a function to call the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee; and

said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video including at least video from said callee terminal to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video including at least video from said caller terminal to said callee terminal;

a first audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing of audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal such that a receiving party will separately listen to the audio into left-channel and right-channel;

a second audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing of audio from said caller terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal such that a receiving party will separately listen to the audio into left-channel and right-channel;

a third audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing of audio from said caller terminal and audio from said callee terminal such that a receiving party will separately listen to the audio into left-channel and right-channel;

a detection function to detect a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal based on an audio signal input from said interpreter terminal; and

an interpretation audio selective suppression function to suppress the audio on the side not selected by the selection signal detected by said detection function out of audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function and audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function.

Claim 24 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein said communication means includes:

- a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said callee terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said caller terminal;

- a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said callee terminal; and

- a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal and video from said callee terminal to said interpreter terminal.

Claim 25 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein said communication means includes:

- a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said callee terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said caller terminal;

- a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said callee terminal; and

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal and video from said callee terminal to said interpreter terminal.

Claim 26 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said callee terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal as a main window and video from said interpreter terminal as a sub window to said callee terminal; and

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal and video from said callee terminal to said interpreter terminal.

Claim 27 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to record video including video from said caller terminal, video from said callee terminal and video from said interpreter terminal and audio including audio from said caller terminal, audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal; and

a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video and audio in response to a request made by a terminal.

Claim 28 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to record video including video from said caller terminal, video from said callee terminal and video from said interpreter terminal and audio including audio from said caller terminal, audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal; and

a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video and audio in response to a request made by a terminal.

Claim 29 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to record video including video from said caller terminal, video from said callee terminal and video from said interpreter terminal and audio including audio from said caller terminal, audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal; and

a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video and audio in response to a request made by a terminal.

Claim 30 (new): A videophone interpretation system in which a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages is interpreted by a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, said videophone interpretation system comprising:

connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal and a second interpreter terminal; and

communication means for communicating video and audio between the caller terminal, the callee terminal, the first interpreter terminal and the second interpreter terminal connected by said connection means; wherein

said connection means includes:

an interpreter registration table in which at least the language types that can be interpreted by an interpreter and terminal numbers of the interpreters are registered;

a function to accept a call from a caller terminal;

a function to acquire a terminal number of a callee, language type of the caller and language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted;

a function to extract a terminal number of a first interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the callee and language type of the caller;

a function to call the first interpreter by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter;

a function to extract a terminal number of a second interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a function to call the second interpreter by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter; and

a function to call the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee; and

said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video including at least video from said callee terminal and audio including at least audio from said first interpreter to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video including at least video from said caller terminal and audio including at least audio from said second interpreter to said callee terminal;

a function to transmit audio including at least audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

a function to transmit an audio including at least audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.

Claim 31 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said callee terminal as a main window and video from said first interpreter terminal as a sub window to said caller terminal;

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal as a main window and video from said second interpreter terminal as a sub window to said callee terminal;

a function to transmit video obtained by synthesizing video from said callee terminal and video from said caller terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

a function to transmit terminal video obtained by synthesizing video from said caller terminal and video from said callee terminal to said second interpreter.

Claim 32 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said communication means includes:

- a first audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said callee terminal and audio from said first interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said caller terminal;

- a second audio transmission function to synthesize audio from said caller terminal and audio from said second interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said callee terminal;

- a third audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

- a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal;

- said first audio transmission function includes a callee audio suppression function to suppress audio from said callee terminal when audio from said first interpreter terminal is detected; and

- said second audio transmission function includes a caller audio suppression function to suppress audio from said caller terminal when audio from said second interpreter terminal is detected.

Claim 33 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said communication means includes:

- a first audio transmission function to selectively transmit either audio from said callee terminal or audio from said first interpreter terminal to said caller terminal;

a second audio transmission function to selectively transmit either audio from said caller terminal or audio from said second interpreter terminal to said callee terminal;

a third audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal;

said first audio transmission function includes a function to turn off audio from said callee terminal and transmit audio from said first interpreter terminal when detecting audio from said first interpreter terminal; and

said second audio transmission function includes a function to turn off audio from said caller terminal and transmit audio from said second interpreter terminal when detecting audio from said second interpreter terminal.

Claim 34 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said communication means includes:

a first audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing of audio from said callee terminal and audio from said first interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said caller terminal such that the receiving party will listen to the audio into left-channel and right-channel separately;

a second audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing of audio from said caller terminal and audio from said second interpreter terminal and transmit the result to said callee terminal such that the receiving party will listen to the audio into left-channel and right-channel separately;

a third audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.

Claim 35 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said communication means includes:

a function to record video including video from said caller terminal, video from said callee terminal, video from said first interpreter terminal and video from said second interpreter terminal and audio including audio from said caller terminal, audio from said callee terminal, audio from said first interpreter terminal and audio from said second interpreter terminal; and

a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video and audio in response to a request made by a terminal.

Claim 36 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein selection information for selecting an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to acquire conditions for selecting an interpreter from said caller terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of an interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions by referencing said interpreter registration table.

Claim 37 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein selection information for selecting an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to acquire conditions for selecting an interpreter from said caller terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of an interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions by referencing said interpreter registration table.

Claim 38 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein selection information for selecting an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to acquire conditions for selecting an interpreter from said caller terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of an interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions by referencing said interpreter registration table.

Claim 39 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein selection information for selecting an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to acquire conditions for selecting an interpreter from said caller terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of an interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions by referencing said interpreter registration table.

Claim 40 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein an availability flag to indicate whether an interpreter is available is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to reference an availability flag in said interpreter registration table to extract the terminal number of an available interpreter.

Claim 41 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22 wherein an availability flag to indicate whether an interpreter is available is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to reference an availability flag in said interpreter registration table to extract the terminal number of an available interpreter.

Claim 42 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein an availability flag to indicate whether an interpreter is available is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to reference an availability flag in said interpreter registration table to extract the terminal number of an available interpreter.

Claim 43 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein an availability flag to indicate whether an interpreter is available is registered in said interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to reference an availability flag in said interpreter registration table to extract the terminal number of an available interpreter.

Claim 44 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a text message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated text message to each of said terminals.

Claim 45 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a text message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated text message to each of said terminals.

Claim 46 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a text message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated text message to each of said terminals.

Claim 47 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a text message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated text message to each of said terminals.

Claim 48 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated voice message to each of said terminals.

Claim 49 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated voice message to each of said terminals.

Claim 50 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated voice message to each of said terminals.

Claim 51 (new): The videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated voice message to each of said terminals.

Claim 52 (new): A videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein said connection means includes a function to register a term used during a conversation based on a command from each of said terminals and a function to extract the registered term and generate a telop based on a command from each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated telop to each of said terminals.

Claim 53 (new): A videophone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein said connection means includes a function to register a term used during a conversation based on a command from each of said terminals and a function to extract the registered term and generate a telop based on a command from each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated telop to each of said terminals.

Claim 54 (new): A videophone interpretation system according to claim 23, wherein said connection means includes a function to register a term used during a conversation based on a command from each of said terminals and a function to extract the registered term and generate a telop based on a command from each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated telop to each of said terminals.

Claim 55 (new): A videophone interpretation system according to claim 30, wherein said connection means includes a function to register a term used during a conversation based on a command from each of said terminals and a function to extract the registered term and generate a telop based on a command from each of said terminals; and

said communication means includes a function to transmit the generated telop to each of said terminals.

Claim 56 (new): A videophone interpretation system according to claim 21, wherein accounting information about an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table, and said connection means includes a function to measure the time that said caller terminal or callee terminal obtains an interpretation service and a function to calculate a fee from the measured time and accounting information registered in said interpreter registration table.

Claim 57 (new): A videophone interpretation method in which an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages, said method using an interpreter registration table in which at least the language types that can be interpreted by an interpreter and a terminal number of the interpreter are registered, said method comprising:

a step of accepting a call from a caller terminal;

a step of acquiring a terminal number of a callee, the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted;

a step of extracting a terminal number of an interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a step of calling the interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the interpreter;

a step of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee;

a step of transmitting video including at least video from said callee terminal to said caller terminal;

a step of transmitting video including at least video from said caller terminal to said callee terminal;

a first audio transmission step of synthesizing audio from said callee terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal and transmitting the result to said caller terminal;

a second audio transmission step of synthesizing audio from said caller terminal and audio from said interpreter terminal and transmitting the result to said callee terminal; and

a third audio transmission step of synthesizing audio from said caller terminal and audio from said callee terminal and transmitting the result to said interpreter terminal; said first audio transmission step including a callee audio suppression step of suppressing audio from said callee terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected; said second audio transmission step including a caller audio

suppression step of suppressing audio from said caller terminal when audio from said interpreter terminal is detected;

a detection step of detecting a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal based on an audio signal input from said interpreter terminal; and

an interpretation audio selective suppression step of suppressing audio on the side not selected by the selection signal detected by said detection step out of audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission step and audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission step.

Claim 58 (new): A videophone interpretation method in which a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee who speak different languages is interpreted by a first interpreter who interprets language of a callee into the language of a caller, and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, said method using an interpreter registration table where at least the language types interpretable by an interpreter and terminal number of the interpreter are registered, said method comprising:

a step of accepting a call from a caller terminal;

a step of acquiring a terminal number of a callee, the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the callee terminal for which said call was accepted;

a step of extracting a terminal number of a first interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the callee and language type of the caller;

a step of calling the first interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the first interpreter;

a step of extracting a terminal number of a second interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee;

a step of calling the second interpreter terminal by using the extracted terminal number of the second interpreter;

a step of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee;

a step of transmitting video including at least video from said callee terminal and audio including at least audio from said first interpreter terminal to said caller terminal;

a step of transmitting video including at least video from said caller terminal and audio including at least audio from said second interpreter terminal to said callee terminal;

a step of transmitting audio including at least audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal; and

a step of transmitting audio including at least audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.